

1921
Behind

Scenes

of the
W.C.T.U.

at
VANCOUVER

B.C.

Lee Mackenzie v. Cunningham

A.B.R.

SPAM 17481

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this pamphlet is to give a clear, accurate and impartial explanation of the causes which led to the unpleasantness in the W. C. T. U. of Vancouver, B. C., in the year 1899, between other members of the executive council and myself.

Owing to the misleading reports circulated in this country and abroad among my friends and acquaintances, those who were fully cognizant of the true facts of the case, earnestly advised the publishing of this manuscript.

M. G. MACKENZIE.

BEHIND THE SCENES

IN THE

W. C. T. U. OF VANCOUVER, B. C.

On March 22nd, 1899, I arrived in Vancouver from Victoria, to join my son who had been in that city for nearly a twelve month. While in Victoria I had become acquainted with Miss Bowes, who had held the position of matron to the Japanese; but who expected shortly to go to Vancouver at the earnest solicitation of the W. C. T. U., as city missionary for that order.

The day of my arrival in Vancouver I met Miss Bowes in the Y. W. C. A. rooms and renewed acquaintance with her. She invited me to attend a Union meeting to be held on March 24, in the house of one, Mrs. William Tufts, jail superintendent. I went with Miss Bowes, who introduced me to several of the ladies. I was invited to join the Union, which I did, and received the bow of white ribbon as the badge of a member of Purity Union.

I was a member of the Union about two months when Mrs. Gleason was introduced to the ladies of the Union by Mrs. S. H. Brown, and became a member. The first five months of my membership I was simply a looker-on, but at the regular meeting on the last Friday in July, new officers were elected: President, Mrs. Gleason; Vice-President, Mrs. Barclay; Treasurer, Mrs. Minnie McDonald; Superintendent of Jail Work, Mrs. William Tufts; Superintendent of Parliamentary Usage, Mrs. S. H. Brown. Miss Bowes continued as city missionary, having been elected for twelve months, and, in addition, was given several other appointments, one as Superintendent of Reports.

I was unanimously elected to the offices of Superintendent of Rescue and of Hospitals, was made Auditor and given a place on the executive committee for saloons and gambling. I was also appointed as delegate to attend the Provincial convention, which was to convene at New Westminster in October.

At that convention which I attended I was proposed as Superintendent of Literature at Fairs by Mrs. Mary Ann Cunningham, Provincial Recording Secretary; seconded by Mesdames McDonald and Tufts.

At the first special meeting under the new officers, Mrs. Gleason, President, contended that the police were negligent of duty in regard to saloons and gambling, and proposed that a private detective be engaged to watch the police and expose them to the public. This was objected to by Mrs. Minnie McDonald on account of the expense it would incur. Mrs. Gleason then proposed that she and the Vice-President, Mrs. Barclay, should masquerade as private detectives. I objected to this on the grounds of its outstepping womanhood to interfere at all in gambling or drinkling places, especially in the manner proposed; contending that the matter should be referred to the gentlemen of the Dominion Alliance. Mrs. Gleason exhibited annoyance at my objection and nothing was done about the matter.

When the next special meeting was called Mrs. Gleason personally notified all members of the executive committee but myself. At this meeting at which I was not present, the engaging of a private detective was agreed upon, but owing to the scarcity of funds the matter was finally dropped.

At the time of the next special meeting all members of the executive committee and one non-member were notified by postal card that the meeting was called for more prayer. On arriving at the place of meeting and observing that she was the only non-member present the lady asked the reason and was told by Mrs. Gleason that she would find out before the meeting was over.

After calling the meeting to order by the singing of the hymn, "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me," Mrs. Gleason asked Mrs. Barclay to lead in prayer; then Mrs. S. H. Brown prayed, followed by Mrs. Gleason reading a prayer. Mrs. Barclay was again asked to pray, after which Mrs. Gleason asked Mrs. S. H. Brown to read from the Scriptures. Mrs. Brown read "Galatians 5th, 11th to 21st," then closing her bible with a snap she said the reading needed no comment from her; that those present could take any name that

suit them best from what she had read; that outsiders had informed her that a member of the Union had told that she, Mrs. Brown, wanted to be appointed Provincial President, which was not so, as she would not accept the position if it were offered her.

I asked her to name the member alleged to have told this, but she refused and I was ordered by the President, Mrs. Gleason, to sit down and mind my own business. Mrs. Brown then stated that she had been informed that it was the non-member present who had told this. The non-member denied the accusation; for which denial she was called a liar repeatedly by the three women, Mesdames Gleason, Brown and Barclay, who became finally so insulting in their remarks that the non-member at last said: "Women, leave me alone; you have surely worked your will enough against me by all you have said, without the least cause."

At this juncture, to show my indignation, I left the meeting. I was told afterward by the non-member that nearly fainting from the expressions of enmity toward her, she followed me from the meeting.

And I now hold a letter from her corroborating this account of the special meeting for more prayer.

During the Provincial convention at New Westminster it was discovered that four women were canvassing for votes to elect Mrs. S. H. Brown Provincial President, and that she was cognizant of the fact. Mrs. Minnie McDonald on learning this, gave an account of the proceedings of the special prayer meeting, to the host and hostess where we were billeted during our attendance at the Provincial convention; and expressed her indignation at the conduct of Mrs. Brown and compared her to the low politicians of her country. Mrs. Brown received five votes.

In October Mrs. McDonald, Miss Bowes and myself were sent as delegates to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary convention of the W. C. T. U., held at Seattle, Wash. On the trip we met Mrs. Mary Ann Cunningham, delegate from New Westminster, and Mrs. McDonald, in talking with her, fully explained the false and disgraceful conduct of Mesdames Gleason, Brown, Barclay, Tufts and Scoulie;

condemning them in the very strongest terms for their deceit, treachery and untruthfulness.

Owing to Mrs. McDonald's vehemence and the attention it attracted, Miss Bowes left her seat three times to remonstrate with her. Mrs. Cunningham turned angrily upon Miss Bowers and said in my hearing: "What business is it of yours; you are not in the Union."

Mrs. Cunningham produced a letter that she had received from Mrs. Gleason to prove to us that she, Mrs. Gleason, had written false statements, namely, that the Union of Vancouver had unanimously appointed Mrs. S. H. Brown Provincial Superintendent of Correspondence. (No local Union can appoint a Provincial Superintendent). Upon this false statement Mrs. Brown was receiving the correspondence for the Provincial Union.

In the regular meeting of the local Union, October 28, Mrs. McDonald spoke of this false statement, mentioning that Mrs. Cunningham had given her the letter to read, condemning their hypocrisy and want of truth, and asking me to corroborate what she said, which I did.

On September 7th, in company with Mrs. Minnie McDonald, I went to English Bay to rescue a young girl who had been reported as living in a tent there with a married man. While talking with the couple we were advised by the man to go and rescue the President of the Vancouver W. C. T. U., who was also camping at English Bay. He said that she went down to the water in a semi-nude condition and also mentioned other things which he had seen; to prove his statements he referred us to the proprietor of the local grocery. On talking with parties at the store, the man's statements were confirmed. Then Mrs. McDonald vouchsafed the information that she also had seen Mrs. Gleason clad as described, and also had observed her conduct in the water. At this time the civic council of Vancouver were having a discussion upon the style of bathing suits to be worn by men. They, favoring suits with drawers to the ankle, tunic below the knee and sleeves to the wrist.

On September 15th, at the regular monthly meeting of the W. C. T. U., Mrs. S. H. Brown proposed that the Union should send a petition to the civil council compelling

men while bathing at English Bay to wear two-piece suits, "drawers to the ankle, tunic below the knee, sleeves to the wrist, high neck collar, etc," stating that she had positively seen for herself very unseemly things on the beach. I spoke of hearing that there was at English Bay a **white ribbon woman** who went from her tent to the water clad only in her bathing suit, without cloak, boots or stockings and drawers only to the knees, her tunic sleeveless and low-necked, back of the tunic held to the front by a narrow strap. Mrs. Gleason was instantly on her feet and in abusive language to me, denied that she had ever gone to bathe without her cloak. I asked her to repeat the denial, and again she used insulting words to me, asking if I knew the name of the woman I had spoken of. My answer was, "Mrs. Gleason, you are at English Bay." "Do you know the name of the woman?" I then sat down. Mrs. Minnie McDonald then said, "I know the name of the woman, for I have seen her both on the street and in the water there." She then described Mrs. Gleason's bathing suit minutely, presenting in contrast the description of what she considered a proper bathing suit to be worn by a respectable woman.

Before Mrs. McDonald took her seat every member present knew that Mrs. Gleason was the white ribbon woman referred to; and Mrs. Gleason, realizing this, wrote a note to Miss Bowes, city reporter for the Union, asking her to suppress the discussion on bathing suits, in her report to the newspapers. Mr. Gleason also wrote a note to Miss Bowes telling her that Mrs. Gleason had never bathed in the arms of any man but himself.

At this time the scandal had become very public. One gentleman, a member of the Dominion Alliance, insisted that Mrs. Gleason should not be allowed to take part in the Gospel temperance meetings, then being held in the city hall. And Miss Bowes had been requested to ask Mrs. Gleason not to take the chair at the regular Sunday meetings owing to the scandal then raging against her.

Although the scandal had become public prior to my rescue trip to English Bay, the first intimation I had of it was on arriving there. Mrs. McDonald told me, and also told others in my hearing, namely, the grocer at English

Bay, our host and hostess at New Westminster during the Provincial convention and Mrs. Cunningham during our trip to Seattle in October that she had seen Mrs. Gleason walking through a crowded thoroughfare in a semi-nude state, for fully 400 yards, in a sleeveless, low-necked tunic, without a cloak, boots or stockings; remarked and condemned by respectable young men, jeered at by men and boys on her way to and from bathing; that she was seen to misconduct herself while in the water with "Nigger Joe," a bartender and "Candy Jack," a well known character to the police and whose boast is the ruin of women.

On the strength of these reports, I said to Mrs. Gleason that she was unfit to be the President of our W. C. T. U. I let the matter drop after this, although I was censured by some for being lax in my duty as Superintendent of Rescue.

On October 28th Mrs. Gleason came to ask me to vote against Miss Bowes' re-engagement as City Missionary, her term of office expiring January 10th, 1900. Mrs. Gleason alleged that Miss Bowes had gone about through the city collecting money and appropriating it to her own use and that she was untruthful. I refused to vote against Miss Bowes, observing to Mrs. Gleason that her charges against Miss Bowes must be told her, in order that she be permitted to defend herself.

At the meeting called to consider Miss Bowes' re-engagement my name was replaced in the roll by that of a stranger. A committee was formed by Mrs. Gleason of six women, opposed to Miss Bowes, to call upon the different churches by letter, to ask what they would contribute toward supporting Miss Bowes as City Missionary for another twelve months; although Mrs. Gleason and committee refused to say how they intended to further her engagement, or what salary the Union would give.

Being able to discern the meaning of this action, I asked that Miss Bowes' engagement should go on the lines of truth and justice, but my remarks were treated with derision. At the next meeting of the Union only one or two churches had responded to the letters, and Mrs. Gleason professed to being greatly surprised, especially mentioning the neglect of the First Baptist church. Soon after this I was fortunate in meeting the pastor, Rev. Mr. Hin-

son, on the street, and asked him the reason for this slight. He told me that being a comparative stranger in town, he had referred the letter to the Rev. Mr. Mathews, of Zion Baptist church, who had told him that the President and majority of the Union were against Miss Bowes' re-engagement, believing that she was of no earthly use to the Union. Mr. Mathews said Mrs. Gleason had told him this, and he agreed not only not to swear to it, but also to write it, which he did, the Rev. Mr. Hinson showing me the letter. The following is a copy of the letter written by Mr. Hinson corroborating the above statements:

San Diego, Cal.

My Dear Mrs. Mackenzie:

Anywhere I am prepared to affirm that Mr. Mathews told me of the existing dissatisfaction with Miss Bowes in the W. C. T. U.; that Mrs. Gleason was against her re-appointment; that the purpose of his written statement which I gave to Mr., was an affirmation of such existing dissatisfaction, and that you were better fitted for the rescue work than Miss Bowes. He cannot deny these statements, I am sure.

(Signed) W. B. HINSON.

The Rev. Mr. Mathews did deny these statements, for a letter to this effect was read in the Union on January 4th by Mrs. Gleason, and the suppressing of the minutes by Mrs. Gleason shows that it was recorded.

At the next meeting of the Union I told Mrs. Gleason that she was the cause of the First Baptist church not responding to the letter; owing to the Rev. Mathews repeating what she had told him of her opposition to Miss Bowes.

At this same meeting Rev. Mr. Scott of the Homer Street M. Church was insulted for speaking in favor of Miss Bowes, and had to defend himself against false statements made by them, saying he had already submitted to too much from them. The Rev. Mr. Reid was also insulted.

Miss Bowes had been requested not to come to the room during the discussion, and a delegation of three women was now appointed to ascertain what salary Miss Bowes would accept for the ensuing year. They returned to the meeting stating her terms. The committee then said they were powerless to act until the churches ap-

pealed to had responded. I said that the delegates had asked Miss Bowes what she would take, and she had given a prompt reply; it was now our duty to say what we would give irrespective of churches, as she was employed by the W. C. T. U. I proposed that we should give her \$200, myself offering \$25 toward it. There was applause from ministers and citizens present, but my proposition was angrily refused by Mrs. Gleason and her committee.

At the next meeting the excuse was made that if they did engage Miss Bowes it would be impossible to collect the money for her salary as they were so far in arrears for the last year's salary. I very much doubted this statement, but to be absolutely certain, before the next regular meeting on December 22nd, on my own responsibility, I called upon tradesmen in the town to give me guarantees for Miss Bowes' salary as City Missionary for 1900. In less than an hour and a half I received guarantees from reliable persons for \$85. This I told in the meeting on December 22nd.

At this meeting we received guarantees for over \$500 toward Miss Bowes' salary for 1900. Following is a classified list:

Homer Street M. E. church.....	\$120
Epworth League and Sunday school.....	30
St. Andrew's church.....	50
Mrs. J. J. McDonald and others would collect.....	60
Mrs. C. C. Eldridge.....	50
City merchants guarantees.....	85
Two ladies.....	24
Two gentlemen.....	50
One gentleman.....	12
One lady.....	25

\$506

Miss Bowers offered her services at \$550 for the year.

The next day, December 23rd, Mrs. Gleason called to ask me to give up the guarantees I had collected to Mrs. Minnie McDonald, Treasurer for W. C. T. U., but on pointing out the fact that Miss Bowes had not yet been engaged for the year 1900 by the W. C. T. U., I decided to keep the guarantees.

On December 27 a citizens' meeting was called. At the close of the meeting nine women remained, including Mrs. Cunningham of the New Westminster Union, who had accompanied Mrs. McDonald.

Late in the afternoon of December 29, on my return from collecting cakes for a social for the Y. M. C. A., I found a note on my table notifying me that a meeting of the W. C. T. U. was called for that afternoon to arrange the matter of Miss Bowes' salary. It was signed "with ALL kindness, very sincerely, Mrs. Gleason." Though it was long past the hour designated, I at once repaired to the place of meeting and discovered that a motion to expel me was in progress. I protested, asking the reason for such a proceeding and claiming the right to be heard in my own defense.

The President, Mrs. Gleason, left her chair, came to me, and with the edge of her hand, struck my arm again and again till it fell powerless to my side, saying, "You shall not speak here." Upon my still protesting, she beat with a pencil on the wall above my head.

Within ten minutes after my arrival I was expelled. As I was preparing to leave the meeting Mrs. S. H. Brown came to me and said "You can go now and tell your rescue work to the Rev. Hinson." Mrs. Gleason also came to me and asked me to wait and have prayers. Later that evening my young son attended a meeting of the Dominion Alliance and while there overheard Mrs. S. H. Brown joking about expelling me from the Union to one Mr. Arthur, who cautioned her that my son could hear her remarks.

Mrs. C. C. Eldridge, ex-President of our Union, was present at the meeting where I was expelled, and considering that I had not been fairly treated, she signed a circular inviting all the members to attend the regular meeting January 5, to allow me to make defense.

Mrs. Gleason, upon receiving her invitation, without the knowledge of the secretary, notified a limited number of members that the date of the regular meeting was changed to January 4.

On January 5 I went early to the meeting; eight women were there standing at the top of the stairs, including Mrs. Cunningham, of New Westminster. No one came

into the room and presently Mrs. Gleason notified Mrs. Eidridge and myself that there was to be no meeting, the regular meeting having been held the day before. We objected to this as being irregular, but to no purpose. Mrs. Gleason informed me that I had had all the hearing she intended I should.

As I was leaving the room I encountered Mrs. S. H. Brown, who came up and struck me in the face, exclaiming, "You characterless woman, coming here among us godly women without credentials to kick up a row." I was informed in a day or two by some of the reliable members that as they came filing up-stairs to attend the meeting they were met by Mrs. Gleason and eight ladies, including Mrs. Cunningham, who informed them that there was to be no meeting that afternoon, it having been held on the afternoon of the preceding day.

Within a week forty of those members, learning the truth of the matter, had left the Union.

I might say here that owing to their connivance against Miss Bowes a committee of citizens interested in the matter engaged her as city missionary. When this was reported by the Rev. Mr. Scott at the citizens' meeting January 9, 1900, Mrs. McDonald proposed her re-engagement at a salary of \$120. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gleason. She was still a member of the Union through her membership fees, and therefore was legally entitled to retain all the appointments conferred upon her by consent of the Union. At the first regular meeting in February she was notified to be present to receive the arrears on her salary. At this meeting her appointments were taken from her and conferred on others. She was ordered to apologize to Mrs. Gleason for requesting her to not take the chair at the Sunday meetings owing to the scandal raging against her, and to also write the apology. At the close of the meeting her salary was given her in small change.

At this meeting a Miss Ostrom, a stranger in the city, was engaged as city missionary at a salary of \$800 per year. The reports of the W. C. T. U. for 1900 show that over \$800 was collected (part of this in Miss Bowes' name); of this Miss Ostrom received \$10.00.

In the summer of 1900 Miss Murcott, a personal

friend of Mrs. Cunningham and her guest, was sent to Edinburg by the W. C. T. U. of British Columbia. While there she investigated my reputation, sending back word that my character in Edinburg was above reproach.

For corroboration of this account which I have given concerning Miss Bowes, I would refer you to the Rev. E. E. Scott, Homer Street M. E. Church, Vancouver; Rev. John Reid, Presbyterian Church, Vancouver; Rev. Mr. Green, Fairview Church, Vancouver; Prof. Whittington and Mrs. C. C. Eldridge, Vancouver.

On December 29, Mrs. Mary Ann Cunningham, of New Westminster, called on Mrs. C. C. Eldridge and told her that she had been sent by the President of the Provincial, Mrs. Gordon Grant, to expel me. She invited Mrs. Eldridge to attend the meeting, offering to pay her car fare. On hearing Mrs. Cunningham had been sent by Mrs. Gordon Grant, I wrote her saying I had been called to attend a meeting (under false pretense) and unjustly expelled therefore I should expect her to defer judgment until she had heard both sides of the question. By return of post I received a reply saying my letter was the first intimation I had received of the action of the Union and that she would most certainly agree with my request. The Rev. Scott was also called upon by Mesdames Gleason and Brown and invited to attend.

At this meeting Mrs. McDonald produced as witnesses two women named Bradon, with whom she boarded (entire strangers to me) to prove that I had slandered her to them. Mrs. Gleason also produced a witness, Mr. Little, secretary of the Y. M. C. A., who boarded with her, and was an elder in Rev. Mathew's Church (also a stranger to me) to prove that I had slandered her. Members of the Union attempting to speak in my defense were not permitted to be heard. Mrs. McDonald spoke against me for over two hours. Charges were brought against me that I had slandered members of the Union, and that I was unfit to be a member of the Union and it was resolved to expel me. The resolution had previously been written out by Mrs. McDonald (not specifying whom I had slandered), and brought to the meeting.

Several times during the meeting Mrs. Cunningham

took part in the discussion, saying that the resolution must be published according to American rules. After the meeting Miss Bowes called upon Mrs. Cunningham at Mrs. McDonald's room to warn her not to publish the resolution, as the statements made against me at the meeting had been contradicted; yet the next morning Mrs. Cunningham called on the three newspaper offices in town and succeeded in having the resolution published in the evening issue of the World and the Province.

After failing to get a hearing on January 5 I wrote to Mrs. Gleason (sending the letter by messenger who gave me the receipt of delivery), telling her that I would have to vindicate my character and wished her to give me a hearing. If she would not do this I must take it to law as my only resource. She made me no reply.

After waiting one week, I put my case in the hands of a lawyer. My intention was to proceed against Mesdames Gleason, Brown, McDonald and Cunningham for slander and libel; but owing to Mrs. Gleason's suppressing the minutes of the meeting and for insufficient evidence against all but Mrs. Cunningham, my case was made out against her only.

In her affidavit she denied taking any part in the meeting which expelled me, but said that knowing it was the regular meeting of the W. C. T. U. she merely dropped in and found them expelling Mrs. Mackenzie. (This meeting was held on December 29, fourth Friday in the month, which proves it to have been an irregular meeting as the regular meetings occur the first and third Fridays in each month).

On her first examination Mrs. Cunningham denied taking the resolution to the newspapers; said she had merely called upon the proprietor of the World to ask him if the resolution was a libel; that it was given for publication by Mrs. Gleason.

On oath the proprietor of the World said that Mrs. Cunningham called at his office and asked him to publish, at the same time handing him the resolution; which he handed back to her after his clerk had taken it down in shorthand. He also told that before the trial Mrs. Cunningham came to him and begged him to give evidence to

the effect that she only asked him if said resolution was a libel. This he refused to do.

A few days after the libel suit was raised, Mrs. Cunningham saw Mrs. Eldridge and Miss Bowes and swore before God that not she, but Mrs. Gleason, had taken the resolution to be published.

After I had raised my libel case against Mesdames Gleason, Brown, Cunningham and McDonald, Mrs. Gleason commenced proceedings against me for slandering her, alleging that I had said that owing to her appearance and actions in the water at English Bay, she was unfit to be President of the W. C. T. U.

Before the case came to trial she sold her household effects at auction. Her husband notified my lawyers that he was not responsible for her debts, and it was reported that they had left Vancouver.

When the date of trial was set the case came up before Lord Chief Justice McColl. I appeared with several witnesses. Mrs. Gleason was conspicuous by her absence. Her lawyers, McDonnell and Brydon Jack, excused themselves by saying the plaintiff was not in town.

(I can swear and produce witnesses to prove that she was in town and was seen on the street before, and on the day of trial in company with Mrs. William Tufts, Mr. Taylor being cognizant of the fact.

His Lordship gave verdict to the effect that if she did not pay costs within a week the case would be dismissed; if she did pay costs her case was to come on as part of the libel suit.

She did not pay, nor has she paid to this date; yet she was allowed all privileges at the trial for libel as if she had done so.

I commenced proceedings in January, stipulating to my lawyer that an apology from Mrs. Cunningham to me and payment of costs would satisfy me; that although I had sued her for damages, I would refuse to touch a cent of her money; that it was in defense of my reputation that I had instituted the suit.

In July my lawyer left the city with \$350 of my money, leaving the papers concerning the case in the hands of a

Mr. Taylor, who, upon my inquiry, recommended to me as counsel Mr. Chas. Wilson, whom I consulted, and who, after talking with me, deferred his acceptance of my case until he had examined the papers held by Mr. Taylor. In a day or two Mr. Taylor wrote me that though Mr. Wilson had not said definitely that he would take my case, still from his asking for more information concerning it, and from his letters there was not the slightest doubt but that he would. I then called upon Mr. Wilson to know definitely his decision and his terms. He was engaged, but in answer to my message of inquiry sent back an unfavorable reply.

One week later I received a bill from Mr. Wilson for \$10 accompanied by a letter requesting immediate payment. I consulted Mr. Taylor, who told me that he had been informed by Mr. Wilson that he was retained by the defense. Mr. Taylor advised me to pay his bill, as in that event Mr. Wilson could not undertake to defend the case.

I paid the bill and secured for my counsel Davis, Marshall and MacNeill, who conducted the case in a most efficient and gentlemanly manner, touching in a most delicate way upon the famous bathing suit slander, which was brought up at this time. Asking the witnesses NO QUESTIONS which would HUMILIATE or INSULT.

On May 25th Mrs. Mary Ann Cunningham sent a minister, the Rev. J. M. Smith, successor to the Rev. Mathews, to wait upon me with four documents, saying she had, both in this and the old country, at a great trouble and expense to herself, made investigations as to my reputation, and must acknowledge that she found it above reproach. Therefore she apologized, and under her signature there was written an acceptance. He had called to ask me to sign the acceptance. Then he said a glorious future would blossom for me. He told me that one document was for the World, one for the Province, one for Mrs. Cunningham and one for myself. He said that the W. C. T. U. was to hold a meeting in Mr. Jas. McQueen's on Monday, May 27th, and when they would open their papers, there before their very eyes would be the record of Mrs. Mackenzie's reputation—above reproach.

And after that I could leave with flying colors and with my fellowmen's respect. On asking him how I should gain my fellowmen's respect by signing Mrs. Cunningham's document he replied that every minister in Vancouver spoke my name with a sneer and every citizen with a wink; that being in the swim he knew more than I did; but here was a chance for me and he only wanted \$200 for getting me out of the scrape; that when I signed he would let me into the secret of the whole thing. He assured me that Mrs. Cunningham sent her love, and told him to be sure and tell me that she bore me no ill will; that what had made them angry was my defense of Miss Bowes. I informed him that if Mrs. Cunningham wanted me to accept an apology it must come through my lawyers, that in no other way would I accept one from her; that she knew very well indeed that by meeting expenses and making a public apology the suit would close at once. The reverend gentleman pretended not to believe this. He said he had come from the Cunninghams early in the morning and not finding me in had waited two hours in vain; that he had returned and waited three hours, and now I refused to sign; that it was my last chance, as he would burn the document on getting home, retire to bed and weep for two hours; that I was an un-Christian woman; that he had promised to 'phone the word "signed" to Mrs. Cunningham hours before, and that she was sitting anxiously under the 'phone waiting for the word; he had not got his sermon written and the next day was Sunday. I suggested that he might take Mrs. Cunningham's documents for a text and utilize the two hours he had intended to spend in weeping in writing, and in that way he might make quite a sensation for both of them.

The following Tuesday he left for Victoria and had an interview with Mrs. Gleason. On the day of his return he called on Mrs. Cunningham at New Westminster and the next morning came to see me again, but I refused to admit him. Later in the day I met him on the street and from his threatening attitude I thought it advisable to consult my lawyers, who said that now I should refuse to accept

any advances from the Cunninghams except through the courts.

The date of the trial was set and on the day preceding I was subpoenaed to appear at a certain place to be examined for the trial and show where my property was. I was sick and unable to go, and it was brought up in chambers before Judge Martin, by Senkler, of Wilson & Senkler, attorneys for the defense, who admitted that the examination was for the purpose of getting some information to favor the defense. Judge Martin thereupon refused to issue a second summons.

In July the case was tried and I was completely vindicated, the jury taking less than fifteen minutes to reach a verdict. They were unanimous in saying, after hearing the evidence against me, that it was impossible for those women to damage my reputation. I was given nominal damages to carry costs.

It came out in evidence that Mrs. Gleason did walk through a public thoroughfare in her bathing suit, without covering. In the witness box she admitted doing so. It also came out in evidence that Mr. McDonald was a married man with three children, a gambler and well known to the W. C. T. U., and to the community of Vancouver; also that out of a membership of eighty-five, only eight took part in expelling me.

I required only an afternoon for myself and witnesses to prove my innocence. When the judge charged the jury every point was in my favor, and Mrs. and Mr. Cunningham left the court room before the verdict was given.

During the course of the libel suit I became acquainted with the fact that letters had been written to my old home in Edinburgh, to San Diego, Cal., and to Victoria, B. C., searching for something against my reputation.

While in Edinburgh it is alleged that Miss Murcott made a search for information as to my character. She carried letters from different women testifying to my expulsion from the W. C. T. U. of Vancouver and also the papers in which the resolution was published. She visited prominent offices and institutions, showing these letters and papers, and purported to be collecting information

against me in the interest of the W. C. T. U. of British Columbia.

My son wrote to tell me that he had been approached by two men from New Westminster who offered him \$400 for any information he could give against his mother, saying it would never be divulged as to who was the informant. Women of the Union called to ask him to say something and they promised not to divulge.

Mrs. Cunningham and her friends said that I was an adventuress; that I made my living by raising such cases as the present one, and had had just such a one in San Diego, which obliged me to "skip out."

I wrote to the most eminent gentlemen in the legal profession in San Diego in regard to this report and publish their answers herewith:

San Diego, Cal., April 10, 1900.

Mrs. M. G. Mackenzie

Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Madam:

Your letter received and you may be sure I was very glad to hear again from one of whom we have so many kind remembrances.

Was very much shocked to hear you had been made the subject of someone's unkind and unjust remarks. Surely the persons making them must be misinformed or is maliciously circulating the story for gain.

I can truly say that in all my acquaintance with you, and I believe it covers all the time you lived in San Diego, I do not know of an instance in which you tried to make money out of another. Quite the contrary. I remember many times when you went out of your way to do kind and charitable acts to others, and that you spent considerable money in this way while here.

Cannot imagine anything more utterly without foundation than such a story and cannot conceive why any one should start it, unless for blackmailing or other malicious purposes.

If there is anything we can do to help right this wrong

advise me at once and you may be sure we will do anything in our power to help you.

Quite a few of your old friends, Judge Belis and wife, Mrs. Craine, Mrs. Gordon and others have enquired after you. With kind regards,

I am very truly yours,

C. H. GLASSIER.

Pierce & Sloane,

Attorneys and Counsellors-at-Law,

Rooms 1 to 3 Pierce-Morse Block,
Sixth and F Streets.

San Diego, Cal., April 9th, 1900.

Mrs. M. G. Mackenzie,

Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Madam:

I was glad to hear from you, but sorry to learn that you had been made the subject of such unjust rumors in your new home

As I had charge with Messrs. Haines and Ward of your business and property here I am in a position to state that the reports you refer to—that you, while here, sued anyone to extort money, or sued anyone at all, for that matter—are utterly without foundation, and you can use my name and refer to me in a most emphatic denial of such slanders.

Very truly yours,

W. A. SLOANE.

Haines & Ward,

Attorneys-at-Law,

Corner Fourth and D Streets,

San Diego, Cal., April 9th, 1900.

Mrs. M. G. Mackenzie,

Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Madam:

It has come to my notice that reports have been circulated in Vancouver by malicious and designing persons that while you were living in San Diego you were considered an adventuress, and that you had derived money

by instituting suits in court against various persons while here.

It gives me pleasure to state that the facts are in violent contrast to the above quoted statements. While here you certainly enjoyed the confidence and esteem of many of the most prominent and influential people in the community. In church and in society you were looked upon as an estimable lady. With kindest regards to yourself and son,

I am, very respectfully yours,

M. L. WARD.

First National Bank
of
San Diego.

San Diego, Cal., April 9th, 1900.

Mrs. M. G. Mackenzie,

Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Madam:

I am quite surprised that anyone should have brought against you the accusation of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Your residence in this city and my acquaintance with you surely will not justify any such slander.

Our court records also show that you never brought suit against anyone with this or any other idea in view, hence I cannot see that your accusers have any facts to support them, and, if responsible, might be subject to damages.

Hoping this finds you well, I am, yours very truly.

FRANK E. HILTON.

For right is right since God is God,
And right the day must win.
To doubt would be disloyalty
To falter would be sin.

INTRODUCTION

Heatherlee, Vancouver, April 11, 1899.

My Dear Mrs. Mackenzie:

At the monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Y. W. C. A. held on Tuesday, April 11, a vote was passed expressing their thanks to you for giving them information as to various things of a most objectionable nature which had come under your notice during your recent stay at the Home.

The ladies appreciate your good motive and high moral courage which impelled you to do so very unpleasant a duty.

They trust that the incident will now be allowed to fall into oblivion and they are sure that in the best interest of the Association you will see it to be wise to refrain from making it a subject of conversation in the future, as if you do that will only prejudice the public against a most useful institution, a result you would deeply regret.

In justice to our board of directors I must add that our devoted president, Mrs. Skinner, and other members have long known that the general tone of the House was far from what it should be and were using their best efforts to discover the cause. With kind regards

I am yours truly,

E. P. EDGE.

Rec. Sec. pro tem., Y. W. C. A.

This incident has been so unjustly brought against me by the same women of the W. C. T. U. and their partisans, saying I had gone into the Y. W. C. A. and brought charges against an innocent woman while there and Mrs. Gleason mentions this in her slander suit against me. In defence I submit a few facts only to the reader of this pamphlet of what had occurred before I came to the city—and what came under my notice and was corroborated by the respectable girls to Mrs. T. Skinner, the president, in my hearing. More could be said, but it is unfit for publication, therefore

I refrain for the present. On the day of my arrival in Vancouver, March 22, I lunched in the Y. W. C. A. An inmate named Lil Lemmon, while drunk was using obscene language in the presence of some thirty girls who were dining there daily. The girls told me that she was seldom, if ever, sober; out at all hours, her resorts being the worst dens of infamy in the city, and boasted of this in the Home.

She had then been several weeks in the Home and many respectable girls had left owing to her being there. A mother said she had come from Wellington to take her daughter away because of the bad conduct allowed in the Home.

The wife of Dr. Eby told in a meeting that Lil Lemmon was so drunk at one time that she mistook their home on Homer street for the Y. W. C. A. on Pender street; her language was such that she (Mrs. Eby) ran bareheaded to the Home for someone to fetch her away.

While in the Home Dr. Mills plastered her head; she had been in a drunken brawl with a man. She had been picked up drunk on the street and sent in a cab to the Y. W. C. A. For bad language she had been thrown out of several of the Water and Cordover street hotels and was known to frequent Dupont street while an inmate of the Christian Association. I took a room for a week in the Association, and from the infamy I witnessed I felt it my duty to call upon the President, Mrs. Annie Skinner, and tell her everything. Mrs. Skinner said she had been praying for weeks to God for help to get at the truth and I had been sent in answer to her prayer. The same afternoon respectable girls called at Mrs. Skinner's house and gave evidence of the disgraceful conduct of the Home for fully two months. They told of a man found in there sleeping one night. Another night a young girl's screams awoke the household and on looking out they saw a man leave the girl's bedroom. She told she had been awakened by a man leaning over her in bed and she left the Home next day. The doors were left open all night to admit this woman. I may say here Lil Lemmon's occupation was that of a procuress; sending girls to Honolulu and Atlin,

and whose work in the Home was demoralizing girls for that purpose.

The respectable girls in the Home had the right to expect protection from the board of directors and have her turned out. But a week passed and Lil Lemmon was still tolerated. I sent the housekeeper to acquaint the Rev. Norman Tucker. He insisted a full board should be called. Two directors were appointed to order her out. They told that although the length of the room was between them they could smell the drink on her.

She refused to leave and for the next few days it could only be likened to a Hell upon earth, owing to her abuse of the girls who gave information against her. Then I took it upon myself to acquaint the police. At this she left—but not before the secretary made a young girl, an Icelander, who could only speak very little English, take \$100 out of the Montreal Bank and hand it over to her (Lil Lemmon), so that if the police made her leave the town she should be well provided.

The police, in the presence of several inmates, said whenever they wanted a notoriously bad character they could always depend upon finding her in the Y. W. C. A., and only a few weeks before arrested a woman in the Home who was one of a gang in a diamond robbery in San Francisco. They (the police) spoke of another woman who had been in the Y. W. C. A. when arrested.

For doing work that God showed me was His, and that He therefore expected me to do, however repulsive, I have been cruelly misjudged. It was His divine hand that led me into the Y. W. C. A. to protect the young girls there and with tears in their eyes they many times said so.

To protect my good name from slanderers my law expenses have been fully \$1400* and although I have won my cases, not one cent has been returned to me. For months I have written Mr. Taylor, my lawyer, for an itemized account, but no notice has been taken of my appeal. I do not wish to misjudge Mr. Taylor. He may have written me but I have not received them. My letters while in Vancouver, have undoubtedly been intercepted for months before the trial and after, and of which I have

complained continually and gave up my box in consequence. Now I can prove this to be the fact most emphatically, since I came to the United States, and have received telegrams, cablegrams and many letters from different people saying they had written and re-written to my box and house address. But these letters I have never received.

Who steals my purse steals trash—

But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him
And makes me poor indeed.

September 3, 1901.

MRS. MACKENZIE.

Postoffice Box 35, Everett, Wash.



